

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claims 9 and 19 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hardee at the interview held May 6, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 62-045,681A ('681); claims 1-6, 8-14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over SU 899,635 B ('635); and claims 1-6, 8-14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over WO 98/40441 ('441). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As agreed during the May 6 personal interview, neither '681, '635 nor '441, disclose or suggest a coolant that includes at least a water-containing base material, a corrosion-preventive additive, wherein the coolant has an electric conductivity of less than about 100 μ S/cm, as recited in independent claim 1.

For applications such as, for instance, fuel cells, a coolant needs to provide an excellent electrical insulation in order to reduce power losses. The electric conductivity of conventional coolants generally lies at about 6000 μ S/cm.

Accordingly, because none of the applied references disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1, Applicants assert that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims define patentable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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